



Des Moines Levee Systems, Des Moines & Raccoon Rivers, Iowa - Flood Risk Management

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Location

Des Moines, Iowa

State(s)

IA

Congressional District(s)

IA-3

Status

FY 2015 Work Plan funding was provided to initiate a Feasibility Study. In 2010, the City of Des Moines requested a study to evaluate the impacts of the increased flood risk identified in the 2010 Des Moines River Regulated Flow Frequency Study (DMRRFFS). The results of the DMRRFFS show the flood flow frequencies have increased over previous Corps estimates and that floods like the 1993 and 2008 events are more likely than previously estimated. The City strongly supports this study to evaluate a variety of structural and nonstructural flood risk management measures to increase their level of protection. The study area includes the entire downtown area and the Southeast Des Moines levee which is part of the Lake Red Rock project and is connected to the downtown levee system.



Description

The existing levee system protects much of the city's critical infrastructure, including City Hall, the Police Station, a regional sewage treatment facility, and aviation fuel facilities. Downtown Des Moines is also a national center for the insurance industry. Flooding of these areas would result in extensive flooding of neighborhoods and commercial/industrial areas that could cause serious contamination of Red Rock Reservoir. Approximately 600,000 people would be impacted by the flooding. The Des Moines and Raccoon River was authorized for construction in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007, and funds were appropriated in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2010. The project has completed reconstruction of levees at Birdland Park and Central Place as recommended in the 2005 feasibility report and construction of closure improvements in the downtown levee system remains to be completed. The 2010 Des Moines River Regulated Flow Frequency Study identified a high risk of flooding in the Des Moines area - significantly higher than estimated in a 2005 feasibility report. The resulting hydraulics show that the existing levees in downtown Des Moines do not provide reliable protection against a 100-year flood. The Study will determine if the Federal projects should be modified to reduce flood risk.

Major Work Item (This Fiscal Year)

FY2016: Complete Review Plan, Project Management Plan (PMP), and the Alternatives Milestone, .

Major Work Item (Next Fiscal Year)

FY2017: Complete the Tentatively Selected Plan and the release of the draft report for



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concurrent review. Execute the Agency Technical Review and the Independent External Peer Review. Work towards the Agency Decision Milestone.

Authority Details

Resolution adopted by Congress on July 1, 1958, following appropriation of funds in the 1998 E&WDAA, also Section 216 of the 1970 Flood Control Act (Public Law 91-611)

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